

Members

Rep. Robert Bischoff, Chairperson  
Rep. Terry Goodin  
Rep. Phyllis Pond  
Rep. William Ruppel  
Sen. James Merritt, Vice-Chairperson  
Sen. David Ford  
Sen. Allie Craycraft  
Sen. James Lewis



## INDIANA STATE FAIR ADVISORY COMMITTEE

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Committee

Authority: IC 15-1-1.5-4

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### MEETING MINUTES<sup>1</sup>

<b>Meeting Date:</b>	<b>October 18, 2001</b>
<b>Meeting Time:</b>	<b>1:30 P.M.</b>
<b>Meeting Place:</b>	<b>Center for Agricultural Science and Heritage (The Barn), 1201 E. 38th Street</b>
<b>Meeting City:</b>	<b>Indianapolis, Indiana</b>
<b>Meeting Number:</b>	<b>3</b>

**Members Present:** Rep. Robert Bischoff, Chairperson; Rep. Phyllis Pond; Rep. William Ruppel; Sen. James Merritt, Vice-Chairperson; Sen. David Ford; Sen. James Lewis.

**Members Absent:** Rep. Terry Goodin; Sen. Allie Craycraft.

Chairperson Bischoff called the meeting to order at 1:38 p.m. The members of the Committee introduced themselves.

### OLD BUSINESS

#### 1. Center for Agricultural Science and Heritage

Betsy Kranz, Executive Director of the Center for Agricultural Science and Heritage, gave the Committee a few facts about The Barn, the site of the day's meeting. The structure was built in 1936, and originally was located at what is now 71st Street and I-465 on the northwest side of Indianapolis. It took exactly one year for the dismantling and erection at

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<sup>1</sup> Exhibits and other materials referenced in these minutes can be inspected and copied in the Legislative Information Center in Room 230 of the State House in Indianapolis, Indiana. Requests for copies may be mailed to the Legislative Information Center, Legislative Services Agency, 200 West Washington Street, Indianapolis, IN 46204-2789. A fee of \$0.15 per page and mailing costs will be charged for copies. These minutes are also available on the Internet at the General Assembly homepage. The URL address of the General Assembly homepage is <http://www.ai.org/legislative/>. No fee is charged for viewing, downloading, or printing minutes from the Internet.

this site. There is a total of 9,000 square feet within the two floors, and classes and events can be held on both levels. Ms. Kranz introduced Justin Armstrong, the Education Specialist for The Barn. This has been the pilot year for educational programming, and 1400 persons attended programming this year.

Ms. Kranz gave the Committee a copy of the "2001 Capital Budget". (A copy of the budget is attached as Exhibit A.) The \$6,000 line item for the "Normandy Barn" was a metal door needed for the front of the Barn as the other one had deteriorated. Future project construction plans are included in the budget. The \$11,000 in the "Revenue" item is the remainder of the \$1.625 million appropriation from the 1997 legislative session. In answer to a question from Senator Lewis, Ms. Kranz stated that \$1 million dollars has been spent on the barn structure thus far, including \$85,000 for a fence and \$15,000 for security at the site. The operating budget for 2001 is \$297,000. There are now 2.5 staff persons, and there are program and operating expenses of the facility.

In response to a question from Representative Pond, Ms. Kranz stated that a Farmer's Market and a community garden idea are being investigated. She told Representative Bischoff that the gas bill is about \$400 per month in the winter, and the air conditioning is about \$600 per month in the summer. They are doing no advertising for the rental availability of the site, and yet they have bookings through part of 2002 through word of mouth. The upper floor can hold 150 for a sit down dinner, and 300 to 400 patrons can be accommodated for a stand-up event.

## 2. Indiana State Fair Board and Indiana State Fair Commission

William Stinson, Executive Director of the Indiana State Fair, presented the Committee with commemorative keys from the 2001 Fair. He handed out the Capital Improvement Plan for the Indiana State Fairgrounds, and stated that the document had been produced in-house, with only the color printing needing to be sent out for processing. (A copy of the document is attached as Exhibit B.) The purchase of a former hotel property on the southeast side of the Fairgrounds acquired 4.8 acres for \$380,000. An oil company wants to buy 4/5 of an acre of the acquisition for \$300,000 to construct a gas station/minimart on the corner. The State of Indiana has improved the entire corner and corridor, and Mr. Stinson feels pride in the renovation.

Mark Hindsley, Controller for the Indiana State Fair, then explained the budgeting procedure for both the Indiana State Fair and the Indiana State Fairgrounds. (A copy of the document is attached as Exhibit C.) The 2001 State Fair budget is about \$5,965,000; the Fair tries to break even. The Fairgrounds 2001 budget is about \$11,750,000. The budget contains all the revenue and expenses used to run the year-round operation. The facility charge parking revenue of \$2 per vehicle raises about \$330,000 a year, which is used for capital projects. The total budget for all functions is about \$18,000,000 this year.

## 3. Study and Analysis of the Indiana State Fair Commission

John Goss, from the Indiana Department of Commerce and the Indiana State Fair Commission, furnished the Committee with the Crowe Chizek Consultant's Report. (A copy of the document is attached as Exhibit D.) The Commission may take on new debt, to be paid in full by 2016. There are three possible scenarios regarding debt acquisition that the Commission is considering, set forth on page 7 of the report. It is unclear what will happen with the 4-H dorms; the 4-H exhibition hall may be renovated as a capital project. In response to a question from Representative Pond, Mr. Stinson stated that the 4-H exhibitors are housed at the Deaf School for a nominal amount per night, but that is becoming a problem as the school year overlaps the State Fair dates. There is dorm

space in the draft horse barn that can be utilized. Representative Pond foresaw a liability issue in allowing the students to be in a dorm setting. Mr. Goss stated that the Commission has reached a consensus that the 4-H exhibition hall needs a very serious study and the Commission will come up with a plan for it this winter. The year 2002 is the 100th anniversary of 4-H and any work to be done might tie in with that anniversary.

Mr. Hindsley stated that one concern is that tax money may not be used to fund bonds. He pointed out the assumption that Build Indiana fund changes would cause a reduction in contribution amount (see the footnote on page 9 of Exhibit D). Representative Ruppel pointed out that there has been less money put in the budget for the State Fair in recent years; the Fair has been a little more self sufficient. In response to a question from Senator Ford, Mr. Goss stated that if the Fair is not able to repay \$2,400,000 for 10 years from revenues, the repayment will have to be made by other means, especially if riverboat revenues go down. Senator Lewis asked what kinds of bonds would be issued; Mr. Hindsley stated that they would be tax exempt revenue bonds. Mr. Goss stated that the Commission wanted the Committee to know of its plans in this area, especially for support to keep the \$0.15 from the riverboat admission intact in the law. The Committee agreed that it supported the concept, and that it would discuss this further in depth at the next meeting.

There being no further business before the Committee, Representative Bischoff adjourned the meeting at 2:49 p.m. He set the next meeting for October 29, 2001, at a new time of 1:30 p.m. at the Board Room of the Administration Building of the Indiana State Fairgrounds.